

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Fox Communities Credit Union to Help Harbor House Create Accessible Children's Path**

APPLETON (Dec. 1, 2010) — Fox Communities Credit Union will partner with Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs to install a pathway that will make the shelter's children's playground fully accessible to all children with physical disabilities requiring a wheelchair.

"Our community is a better place for having a safe shelter for abused women and families to go to that is accessible to all," said Lynn Marie Hopfensperger, Fox Communities Credit Union community development officer, about why they chose to partner with Harbor House on this project.

The installation of the pathway, which will occur in either late-spring or early summer of 2011, will make it possible for people in wheelchairs to access the children's playground. Currently, the playground is accessible to a certain point, but the ground is too unstable to safely support a wheelchair in some of the green areas. A concrete pathway will make it possible for anyone in a wheelchair to move freely in the playground.

"We are so grateful to Fox Communities Credit Union for stepping up to help us fund our playground pathway project," said Maria Turner, Harbor House communication and development coordinator.

"This project has been something we've been trying for some time to find the right funding partner, not only because we wanted to make the playground fully accessible to children in wheelchairs, but also because our own Family Advocate uses a wheelchair herself. With the installation of the pathway, she will have another way of bonding with the children while they play outdoors, and that bond between children and caring adults is so crucial in the healing process for kids victimized by domestic violence."

Harbor House shelters an average of 215 children annually and works with another 300 more for such things as support groups, one-on-one counseling, legal advocacy and more.

The project is expected to cost \$1,500 to include the installation of a 4-foot by 75-foot concrete pathway along with bark mulch, lawn repair and miscellaneous grading with work to be done by Vande Hey Landscaping, all of which will be funded by Fox Communities Credit Union.

**About Harbor House:** *Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs has been serving families affected by domestic violence in Outagamie and Calumet counties since 1984. Its mission is "to lead a community-wide partnership in the awareness and prevention of domestic violence and abuse and to offer safety and support to diverse families and individuals in crisis." Services provided include safe shelter, one-on-one counseling and advocacy, support groups, legal assistance and more. For more information, go to [www.harborhouseonline.org](http://www.harborhouseonline.org) or call (920) 832-1667.*